

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9806

INFO CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07141

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, PFOR, MILI

SUBJECT: UPGRADING OF DAO POSITION - COUNTRY TEAM
MESSAGE

REF: STATE 100882

SUMMARY: THE COUNTRY TEAM HAS BEEN CONSIDERING HOW
BEST TO MITIGATE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE DECISION
TO DOWNGRADE THE CHIEF MAAG POSITION FROM MAJOR
GENERAL TO COLONEL (REFTEL). BY UPGRADING THE
DEFENSE ATTACHE POSITION TO GENERAL OFFICER LEVEL, THE
COUNTRY TEAM FEELS THAT THE ADVERSE POLITICAL EFFECT
HERE IN THE FRG CAN BE MINIMIZED. IT IS RECOMMENDED
THAT THIS BE DONE UPON THE CURRENT INCUMBENTS COMPLE-
TION OF ASSIGNMENT IN SEPTEMBER.
END SUMMARY

1. THE REASONS WHY A GENERAL OFFICER POSITION IS
REQUIRED IN EMBASSY BONN HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY DESCRIBED
IN MESSAGES FROM AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND, FORMER MAAG
CHIEF GENERAL WAGSTAFF AND OTHERS. THE COUNTRY TEAM
UNDERSTANDS THAT WASHINGTON ACCEPTED THE IMPORTANCE
OF THEIR ARGUMENTS BUT WAS COMPELLED TO REDUCE THE
POSITION BECAUSE THE FY 75 SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT REQUIRED A REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL
NUMBER OF FLAG AND GENERAL OFFICERS PRIMARILY ENGAGED
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IN MAP AND FMS PROGRAMS. INDEED REFTEL NOTES THAT

FOUR FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICERS WHOSE MAAG POSITIONS ARE BEING ABOLISHED WILL ACTUALLY REMAIN AT POST TO CARRY OUT THE SECOND OF THEIR DUAL-HATTED FUNCTIONS.

2. THE COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEFENSE ATTACHE POSITION IN BONN BE UPGRADED TO THAT OF GENERAL OFFICER. BY KEEPING A GENERAL OFFICER IN EMBASSY BONN, THE US WILL DO MUCH TO EASE THE ADVERSE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS WHICH THE DOWNGRADING OF THE MAAG POSITION WILL HAVE ON THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN OTHER KEY ALLIED CAPITALS: E.G. THE DEFENSE ATTACHES IN PARIS AND LONDON ARE GENERAL OR FLAG OFFICERS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEFENSE ATTACHE IN BONN HAS IN THE PAST NOT BEEN CONSIDERED AS A GENERAL OFFICER SLOT DUE TO A GENERAL OFFICER HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY AS CHIEF MAAG.

3. THE CURRENT DEFENSE ATTACHE IS DUE TO DEPART BONN ON REASSIGNMENT IN SEPTEMBER. THE COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT HE BE REPLACED AT THAT TIME BY A GENERAL OFFICER. THIS WOULD PRESERVE THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A GENERAL OFFICER ACCREDITED TO THIS MOST IMPORTANT NATO ALLY. SIMILAR RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY CHIEF MAAG AND DAO THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS. COINCIDENTALLY, THE NEW DAO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SHORTLY BEFORE THE FIRST SOVIET DEFENSE ATTACHE EVER TO BE ASSIGNED TO BONN TAKES UP HIS POST. THE SOVIET DEFENSE ATTACHE WILL BE A BRIGADIER GENERAL.

4. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO INFORM THE FRG OF THE DOWNGRADING OF THE CHIEF MAAG POSITION UNTIL IT RECEIVES AN ANSWER TO THIS COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDATION.
HILLENBRAND

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